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Life is like a game, there could be  
many players. If you don't play with  
them, they'll play with you.

— Adolf Hitler —

AZ QUOTES

20 Apl 1889 <::><::><::> 30 Apl 1945

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20 Apr 1889



30 Apr 1945



Front page of the US Armed Forces newspaper Stars and Stripes on 2 May 1945

Date 30 April 1945;

Location Berlin, Nazi Germany

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death\\_of\\_Adolf\\_Hitler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Adolf_Hitler)

Adolf Hitler, chancellor and dictator of Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945, committed suicide via a gunshot to the head on 30 April 1945 in the Führerbunker in Berlin after it became clear that Germany would lose the Battle of Berlin, which led to the end of World War II in Europe. Eva Braun, his wife of one day, also committed suicide by cyanide poisoning. In accordance with Hitler's prior written and verbal instructions, that afternoon their remains were carried up the stairs and through the bunker's emergency

exit to the [Reich Chancellery](#) garden, where they were doused in petrol and burned. The news of Hitler's death was announced on German radio the next day, 1 May.

Eyewitnesses who saw Hitler's body immediately after his suicide testified that he died from a self-inflicted gunshot, presumably to the [temple](#). [Otto Günsche](#), Hitler's personal adjutant, who handled both bodies, testified that while Braun's smelled strongly of burnt almonds – an indication of cyanide poisoning – there was no such odour about Hitler's body, which smelled of gunpowder. Dental remains extracted from the soil in the garden were matched with Hitler's dental records in May 1945. The dental remains were later confirmed as being Hitler's.

The [Soviet Union](#) restricted the release of information and released many conflicting reports about Hitler's death. Historians have largely rejected these as part of a deliberate [disinformation](#) campaign by [Joseph Stalin](#) to sow confusion regarding Hitler's death, or have attempted to reconcile them. Soviet records allege that the burnt remains of Hitler and Braun were recovered, despite eyewitness accounts that they were almost completely reduced to ashes. In June 1945, the Soviets began seeding two contradictory narratives: that Hitler died by taking cyanide or that he had survived and fled to another country. Following extensive review, [West Germany](#) issued a [death certificate](#) in 1956. [Conspiracy theories about Hitler's death](#) continue to attract interest.

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf\\_Hitler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Hitler)

Adolf Hitler



Official portrait, 1938

## **Führer of Germany**

### **In office**

2 August 1934 – 30 April 1945

**Preceded by** [Paul von Hindenburg](#) (as [President](#))

**Succeeded by** [Karl Dönitz](#) (as President)

## **Chancellor of Germany**

### **In office**

30 January 1933 – 30 April 1945

**President** Paul von Hindenburg (1933–1934)

**Vice** [Franz von Papen](#) (1933–1934)  
**Chancellor**

**Preceded by** [Kurt von Schleicher](#)

**Succeeded by** [Joseph Goebbels](#)

## **Führer of the Nazi Party**

### **In office**

29 July 1921 – 30 April 1945

**Deputy** [Rudolf Hess](#) (1933–1941)

**Preceded by** [Anton Drexler](#) (Party Chairman)

**Succeeded by** [Martin Bormann](#) ([Party Minister](#))

## **Personal details**

**Born** 20 April 1889  
[Braunau am Inn](#), Austria-Hungary

<b>Died</b>	30 April 1945 (aged 56) Berlin, Nazi Germany
<b>Cause of death</b>	<a href="#">Suicide by gunshot</a>
<b>Citizenship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Austria (<a href="#">until 1925</a>)</li> <li><a href="#">Stateless</a> (1925–1932)</li> <li>Germany (from 1932)</li> </ul>
<b>Political party</b>	<a href="#">Nazi Party</a> (from 1920)
<b>Other political affiliations</b>	<a href="#">German Workers' Party</a> (1919–1920)
<b>Spouse</b>	<a href="#">Eva Braun</a> (m. 1945; died 1945)
<b>Parents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Alois Hitler</a></li> <li><a href="#">Klara Pölzl</a></li> </ul>
<b>Relatives</b>	<a href="#">Hitler family</a>
<b>Cabinet</b>	<a href="#">Hitler cabinet</a>
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Military service</b>	
<b>Allegiance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">German Empire</a></li> <li><a href="#">Weimar Republic</a></li> <li><a href="#">Nazi Germany</a></li> </ul>
<b>Branch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Imperial German Army</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Bavarian Army</a></li> </ul> </li> <li><a href="#">Reichswehr</a></li> </ul>
<b>Years of service</b>	1914–1920
<b>Rank</b>	<a href="#">Gefreiter</a>
<b>Commands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">German Army</a> (from 1941)</li> <li><a href="#">Army Group A</a> (1942)</li> </ul>
<b>Wars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">World War I</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Western Front</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">First Battle of Ypres</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Battle of the Somme (WIA)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Battle of Arras</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Battle of Passchendaele</a></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">World War II</a></li> </ul>
<b>Awards</b>	<a href="#">List of awards</a> <a href="#">Adolf Hitler's voice</a>
	Duration: 16 minutes and 59 seconds: 16:59 <b>Hitler's last recorded speech</b> <b>Recorded January 1945</b>

# Adolf Hitler

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/adolf-hitler>

**Hitler's Early Years**

**World War I**

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**Hitler As German *Fuhrer***

**World War II**

**Allied Victory**

**Hitler's Death**

## Early Years

**Adolf Hitler** was born in **Braunau am Inn, Austria**, on April 20, 1889, the son of a fifty-two-year-old Austrian customs official, **Alois Schickelgruber Hitler**, and his third wife, a young peasant girl, Klara Poelzl, both from the backwoods of lower Austria. The young Hitler was a resentful, discontented child. Moody, lazy, of unstable temperament, he was deeply hostile towards his strict, authoritarian father and strongly attached to his indulgent, hard-working mother, whose death from cancer in December 1908 was a shattering blow to the adolescent Hitler.

After spending four years in the Realschule in [Linz](#), he left school at the age of sixteen with dreams of becoming a painter. In October 1907, the provincial, middle-class boy left home for [Vienna](#), where he was to remain until 1913, leading a bohemian, vagabond existence. Embittered at his rejection by the Viennese Academy of Fine Arts, he was to spend “five years of misery and woe” in Vienna, as he later recalled, adopting a view of life that changed very little in the ensuing years, shaped as it was by a pathological hatred of [Jews](#) and [Marxists](#), liberalism and the cosmopolitan Habsburg monarchy.



**Hitler as a baby**

Existing from hand to mouth on occasional odd jobs and the hawking of sketches in low taverns, the young Hitler compensated for the frustrations of a lonely bachelor's life in miserable male hostels by political harangues in cheap cafes to anyone who would listen and indulging in grandiose dreams of a Greater Germany.

In Vienna, he acquired his first education in politics by studying the demagogic techniques of the popular Christian-social Mayor, [Karl Lueger](#), and picked up the stereotyped, obsessive [anti-Semitism](#) with its brutal, violent sexual connotations and concern with the “purity of blood” that remained with him to the end of his career.

From crackpot racial theorists like the defrocked monk, Lanz von Liebenfels, and the Austrian Pan-German leader, Georg von Schoenerer, the young Hitler learned to discern in the “Eternal Jew” the symbol and cause of all chaos, corruption, and destruction in culture, politics and the economy. The press, prostitution, syphilis, capitalism, Marxism, democracy, and pacifism – all were so many means that “the Jew” exploited in his conspiracy to undermine the German nation and the purity of the creative Aryan race.

## **World War I**



In May 1913, Hitler left Vienna for [Munich](#), and, when war broke out in August 1914, he joined the Sixteenth Bavarian Infantry Regiment, serving as a dispatch runner. Hitler proved an able, courageous soldier, receiving the Iron Cross (First Class) for bravery, but did not rise above the rank of Lance Corporal. Twice wounded, he was badly gassed four weeks before the end of the war and spent three months recuperating in a hospital in Pomerania. Temporarily blinded and driven to impotent rage by the abortive November 1918 revolution in [Germany](#) as well as the military defeat,

Hitler, once restored, was convinced that fate had chosen him to rescue a humiliated nation from the shackles of the Versailles Treaty, from Bolsheviks and Jews.

Assigned by the Reichswehr in the summer of 1919 to "educational" duties, which consisted largely of spying on political parties in the overheated atmosphere of post-revolutionary Munich, Hitler was sent to investigate a small nationalistic group of idealists, the German Workers' Party. On September 16, 1919, he entered the Party (which had approximately forty members), soon changed its name to the [National Socialist German Workers' Party \(NSDAP\)](#), and imposed himself as its Chairman by July 1921.

### **Hitler Was No Superman**

Hitler promoted the idea of the *Übermensch*, a biologically superior Aryan or Germanic master race of strong, tall, blond-haired, blue-eyed Aryan supermen. The Nazis sought to breed such men through the "[Lebensborn](#)" program. Ironically, the only "super" characteristic he shared was blue eyes. Hitler was a 5' 9", skinny, 155-pound (no one knows because he refused to undress for medical examinations), brown-haired Austrian.

Hitler was a vegetarian who did not smoke or drink. Dr. Ernst Gunther Schenck, who studied Hitler's medical record, said, "Hitler's initial complaints were the colitis that had bothered him for years, a mild kidney condition and a problem with a leg injury suffered during World War I. Morell helped him with all three problems. From the date they met in 1937 until April 1945, Hitler had absolute confidence in Morell."

Besides resisting a complete physical, Hitler refused to be X-rayed. "Many of his symptoms were psychosomatic," Schenck added. "Almost daily, he complained to Morell about numerous pains. He demanded injections of invigorating and tranquilizing drugs, complained of headaches, stomach aches, constipation and diarrhea, constant colds, insomnia and many other discomforts. He described every pain very carefully and he complained bitterly."

He was given hundreds of injections he believed would restore his energy and believed he would feel better if he could execute the generals that betrayed him, "But in truth, he probably had an irritable bowel syndrome, and the stress aggravated it beyond his endurance."

Schenck said Hitler was prescribed 92 different medications, some of which had not been scientifically tested. Morell owned companies that manufactured 20 of the drugs. "Hitler used many drugs, but he never became addicted to any one, including morphine, which was administered to him 25 times during 1943-44, for his stomach cramps. But he was psychologically dependent upon the idea of drugs as magic."

Before he died, Hitler was seen shaking, which may have been a result of Parkinson's disease or withdrawal from drugs.

In addition, according to historians Jonathan Mayo and Emma Craigie, "Hitler himself is believed to have had two forms of genital abnormality: an undescended testicle and a rare condition called penile hypospadias in which the urethra opens on the underside of the penis."

Another historian, Ian Kershaw, said Hitler avoided sexual activity because he feared catching an infection. Others, however, have said he had a healthy sex life and was involved with several women, most notably his mistress Eva Braun and contrary to some reports, he never contracted syphilis.

Schenck also had an answer to the question of whether Hitler was insane. He compared him to other mass murderers in history – [Stalin](#), [Franco](#), [Mussolini](#), Idi Amin, [Alexander the Great](#), [Julius Caesar](#), Genghis Khan, and [Napoleon](#) – whose behavior he said “cannot be explained medically or psychologically.” He concluded, “Hitler was not insane. He had a political obsession that led him to attempt insane things. The German people followed him because, like Hitler, they believed that they were surrounded by dangerous enemies.”

### **Hitler Becomes a Leader**

Hitler discovered a powerful talent for oratory as well as giving the new Party its symbol — the [swastika](#) — and its greeting, “*Heil!*” His hoarse, grating voice, for all the bombastic, humorless, histrionic content of his speeches, dominated audiences by dint of his tone of impassioned conviction and gift for self-dramatization. By November 1921, Hitler was recognized as the Führer of a movement that had 3,000 members and boosted his personal power by organizing strong-arm squads to keep order at his meetings and break up those of his opponents. Out of these squads grew the [stormtroopers \(SA\)](#), organized by Captain [Ernst Röhm](#) and Hitler’s black-shirted personal bodyguard, the [Schutzstaffel \(SS\)](#).

Hitler focused his propaganda against the Versailles Treaty, the “November criminals,” the Marxists, and the visible, internal enemy No. 1, the “Jew,” who was responsible for all Germany’s domestic problems. In the twenty-five-point [program of the NSDAP](#) announced on February 24, 1920, the exclusion of the Jews from the Volk community, the myth of Aryan race supremacy and extreme nationalism were combined with “socialistic” ideas of profit-sharing and nationalization inspired by ideologues like Gottfried Feder.

Hitler’s first written utterance on political questions dating from this period emphasized that what he called “the anti-Semitism of reason” must lead “to the systematic combating and elimination of Jewish privileges. Its ultimate goal must implacably be the total removal of the Jews.”

By November 1923, Hitler was convinced that the Weimar Republic was on the verge of collapse and, together with General Ludendorff and local nationalist groups, sought to overthrow the Bavarian government in Munich. Bursting into a [beer hall](#) in Munich and firing his pistol into the ceiling, he shouted out that he was heading a new provisional government that would carry through a revolution against “Red Berlin.” Hitler and Ludendorff then marched through Munich at the head of 3,000 men, only to be met by police fire which left sixteen dead and brought the attempted putsch to an ignominious end.

Hitler was arrested and tried on February 26, 1924, succeeding in turning the tables on his accusers with a confident, propagandist speech that ended with the prophecy:

"Pronounce us guilty a thousand times over: the goddess of the eternal court of history will smile and tear to pieces the State Prosecutor's submission and the court's verdict for she acquits us."

Sentenced to five years imprisonment in Landsberg fortress, Hitler was released after only nine months, during which he dictated *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) to his loyal follower, [Rudolf Hess](#). Subsequently, the "bible" of the Nazi Party, this crude, half-baked hodgepodge of primitive Social Darwinism, racial myth, anti-Semitism, and lebensraum fantasy had sold over five million copies by 1939 and been translated into eleven languages.



The failure of the [Beer-Hall putsch](#) and his period of imprisonment transformed Hitler from an incompetent adventurer into a shrewd political tactician, who henceforth decided that he would never again confront the gun barrels of the army and police until they were under his command. He concluded that the road to power lay not through force alone but through legal subversion of the Weimar Constitution, the building of a mass movement, and the combination of parliamentary strength with extra-parliamentary street terror and intimidation. Helped by [Goering](#) and [Goebbels](#) he began to reassemble his followers and rebuild the movement which had disintegrated in his absence.

### **Rise of the Nazi Party**

In January 1925, the ban on the Nazi Party was removed and Hitler regained permission to speak in public. Outmaneuvering the "socialist" North German wing of the Party under [Gregor Strasser](#), Hitler re-established himself in 1926 as the ultimate arbiter to whom all factions appealed in an ideologically and socially heterogeneous movement. Avoiding rigid, programmatic definitions of National Socialism which would have undermined the charismatic nature of his legitimacy and his claim to absolute leadership, Hitler succeeded in extending his appeal beyond [Bavaria](#) and attracting both Right and Left to his movement.

Though the Nazi Party won only twelve seats in the 1928 elections, the onset of the Great Depression, with its devastating effects on the middle classes, helped Hitler to win over all those strata in German society who felt their economic existence was threatened. In addition to peasants, artisans, craftsmen, traders, small businessmen, ex-officers, students, and déclassé intellectuals, the Nazis in 1929 began to win over the big industrialists, nationalist conservatives, and army circles.

With the backing of the press tycoon, Alfred Hugenberg, Hitler received tremendous nationwide exposure just as the effects of the world economic crisis hit Germany, producing mass unemployment, social dissolution, fear, and indignation. With demagogic virtuosity, Hitler played on national resentments, feelings of revolt, and the desire for strong leadership, using all the most modern techniques of mass persuasion to present himself as Germany's redeemer and messianic savior.

In the 1930 elections, the Nazi vote jumped dramatically from 810,000 to 6,409,000 (18.3 percent of the total vote) and they received 107 seats in the Reichstag.

Prompted by [Hjalmar Schacht](#) and Fritz Thyssen, the great industrial magnates began to contribute liberally to the coffers of the NSDAP, reassured by Hitler's performance before

the Industrial Club in Dusseldorf on January 27, 1932, that they had nothing to fear from the radicals in the Party.



**Hitler and President von Hindenburg (1933)**

The following month Hitler officially acquired German citizenship and decided to run for the Presidency, receiving 13,418,011 votes in the run-off elections of April 10, 1931, as against 19,359,650 votes for the victorious von Hindenburg, but four times the vote for the communist candidate, Ernst Thaelmann.

In the Reichstag elections of July [1932](#), the Nazis emerged as the largest political party in Germany, obtaining nearly fourteen million votes (37.3%) and 230 seats. Although the NSDAP fell back in November 1932 to eleven million votes (196 seats), Hitler was helped to power by a camarilla of conservative politicians led by [Franz von Papen](#), who persuaded the reluctant von Hindenburg to nominate "the Bohemian corporal" as Reich Chancellor on January 30, [1933](#).

Once in the saddle, Hitler moved with great speed to outmaneuver his rivals, virtually ousting the conservatives from any real participation in government by July 1933, abolishing the free trade unions, eliminating the communists, Social Democrats, and Jews from any role in political life and sweeping opponents into concentration camps. The Reichstag fire of February 27, 1933, had provided him with the perfect pretext to begin consolidating the foundations of a totalitarian one-party State, and special "enabling laws" were ramrodded through the Reichstag to legalize the regime's intimidatory tactics.

With support from the nationalists, Hitler gained a majority at the last "democratic" elections held in Germany on March 5, 1933, and, with cynical skill, he used the whole gamut of persuasion, propaganda, terror, and intimidation to secure his hold on power. The seductive notions of a "National Awakening" and a "Legal Revolution" helped paralyze potential opposition and disguise the reality of autocratic power behind a facade of traditional institutions.

## Hitler As *Fuhrer*

The destruction of the radical SA leadership under [Ernst Rohm](#) in the [Blood Purge](#) of June [1934](#) confirmed Hitler as the undisputed dictator of the Third Reich and by the beginning of August, when he united the positions of *Fuhrer* and Chancellor on the death of von Hindenburg, he had all the powers of State in his hands. Avoiding any institutionalization of authority and status which could challenge his own undisputed position as the supreme arbiter, Hitler allowed subordinates like [Himmler](#), [Goering](#), and [Goebbels](#) to mark out their own domains of arbitrary power while multiplying and duplicating offices to a bewildering degree.



**Hitler after an SS rally in Berlin**

During the next four years, Hitler enjoyed a dazzling string of domestic and international successes, outwitting rival political leaders abroad just as he had defeated his opposition at home. In [1935](#), he abandoned the Versailles Treaty and began to build up the army by conscripting five times its permitted number. He persuaded Great Britain to allow an increase in the naval building program, and in March [1936](#), he occupied the demilitarized Rhineland without meeting opposition. He began building up the Luftwaffe and supplied military aid to Francoist forces in [Spain](#), which brought about the Spanish fascist victory in [1939](#).

The German rearmament program led to full employment and an unrestrained expansion of production, which was reinforced by his foreign policy successes – the [Rome-Berlin](#) pact of 1936, the [Anschluss](#) with Austria, and the “liberation” of the Sudeten Germans in [1938](#) – brought Hitler to the zenith of his popularity. In February 1938, he dismissed sixteen senior generals and took personal command of the armed forces, thus ensuring that he would be able to implement his aggressive designs.

Hitler’s saber-rattling tactics bludgeoned the British and French into the humiliating [Munich agreement](#) of 1938 and the eventual dismantlement of the [Czechoslovakian State](#) in March [1939](#). The [concentration camps](#), the [Nuremberg racial laws](#) against the Jews, the persecution of the churches and political dissidents were forgotten by many Germans in the euphoria of Hitler’s territorial expansion and bloodless victories. The next designated target for Hitler’s ambitions was [Poland](#) (her independence guaranteed by [Britain](#) and [France](#)), and, to avoid a two-front war, the Nazi dictator signed a pact of friendship and non-aggression with [Soviet Russia](#).

## World War II

On September 1, 1939, German armed forces invaded Poland and henceforth, Hitler’s main energies were devoted to the conduct of a war he had unleashed to dominate Europe and secure Germany’s “living space.”

The first phase of [World War II](#) was dominated by German Blitzkrieg tactics: sudden shock attacks against airfields, communications, and military installations, using fast mobile armor and infantry to follow up on the first wave of bomber and fighter aircraft. Poland was overrun in less than one month, [Denmark](#) and [Norway](#) in two months, and [Holland](#), [Belgium](#), Luxemburg, and [France](#) in six weeks. After the fall of France in June 1940, only [Great Britain](#) stood firm.



**Hitler showing the Nazi salute**

The [Battle of Britain](#), in which the Royal Air Force prevented the Luftwaffe from securing aerial control over the English Channel, was Hitler's first setback, causing the planned invasion of the British Isles to be postponed. Hitler turned to the Balkans and North Africa, where his Italian allies had suffered defeats, his armies rapidly

overrunning [Greece](#), [Yugoslavia](#), the island of [Crete](#), and driving the British from [Cyrenaica](#).

The crucial decision of his career, the [invasion of Soviet Russia](#) on June 22, 1941, was rationalized by the idea that its destruction would prevent Great Britain from continuing the war with any prospect of success. He was convinced that once he kicked the door in, as he told [Alfred Jodl](#) (q.v.), "the whole rotten edifice [of communist rule] will come tumbling down," and the campaign would be over in six weeks. The war against Russia was to be an anti-Bolshevik crusade, a war of annihilation in which the fate of European Jewry would finally be sealed. At the end of January 1939, Hitler had [prophesied](#) that "if the international financial Jewry within and outside Europe should succeed once more in dragging the nations into a war, the result will be, not the Bolshevization of the world and thereby the victory of Jewry, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe."

As the war widened – the United States by the end of [1941](#) had entered the struggle against the Axis powers – Hitler identified the totality of Germany's enemies with "international Jewry," who supposedly stood behind the British-American-Soviet alliance. The policy of forced emigration had manifestly failed to remove the Jews from Germany's expanded [lebensraum](#), increasing their numbers under German rule as the Wehrmacht moved East.

The widening of the conflict into a world war by the end of 1941, the refusal of the British to accept Germany's right to continental European hegemony (which Hitler attributed to "Jewish" influence) and to agree to his "peace" terms, the racial-ideological nature of the assault on Soviet Russia, finally drove Hitler to implement the "[Final Solution of the Jewish Question](#)" which had been under consideration since 1939. The measures already taken in those regions of Poland annexed to the Reich against Jews (and Poles) indicated the genocidal implications of Nazi-style "Germanization" policies. The invasion of Soviet Russia was to set the seal on Hitler's notion of territorial conquest in the East, which was inextricably linked with annihilating the 'biological roots of Bolshevism' and hence with the liquidation of all Jews under German rule.

At first, the German armies carried all before them, overrunning vast territories, overwhelming the Red Army, encircling [Leningrad](#), and reaching within striking distance of [Moscow](#). Within a few months of the invasion, Hitler's armies had extended the Third Reich from the Atlantic to the Caucasus, from the Baltic to the Black Sea. But the Soviet Union did not collapse as expected, and Hitler, instead of concentrating his attack on Moscow, ordered a pincer movement around [Kiev](#) to seize [Ukraine](#), increasingly procrastinating and changing his mind about objectives. Underestimating the depth of military reserves on which the Russians could call, the caliber of their generals, and the resilient, fighting spirit of the Russian people (whom he dismissed as inferior peasants), Hitler prematurely proclaimed in October 1941 that the Soviet Union had been "struck down and would never rise again." He had overlooked the pitiless Russian winter to which his own troops were now condemned, and which forced the Wehrmacht to abandon the highly mobile warfare which had previously brought such spectacular successes.

The disaster before Moscow in December 1941 led him to dismiss his Commander-in-Chief [von Brauchitsch](#), and many other key commanders who sought permission for tactical withdrawals, including [Guderian](#), [Bock](#), [Hoepner](#), [von Rundstedt](#), and [Leeb](#), found themselves cashiered. Hitler now assumed personal control of all military operations, refusing to listen to advice, disregarding unpalatable facts, and rejecting everything that did not fit into his preconceived picture of reality. His neglect of the Mediterranean theatre and the Middle East, the failure of the Italians, the entry of the United States into the war, and above all, the stubborn determination of the Russians, pushed Hitler onto the defensive. From the winter of 1941, the writing was on the wall, but Hitler refused to countenance military defeat, believing that implacable will and the rigid refusal to abandon positions could make up for inferior resources and the lack of a sound overall strategy.

Convinced that his own General Staff was weak and indecisive, if not openly treacherous, Hitler became more prone to outbursts of blind, hysterical fury towards his generals, when he did not retreat into bouts of misanthropic brooding. His health, too, deteriorated under the impact of the drugs prescribed by his quack physician, Dr. Theodor Morell. Hitler's personal decline, symbolized by his increasingly rare public appearances and his self-enforced isolation in the "Wolf's Lair," his headquarters buried deep in the East Prussian forests, coincided with the visible signs of the coming German defeat, which became apparent in mid-[1942](#).

## Allied Victory

Rommel's defeat at El Alamein and the subsequent loss of North Africa to the Anglo-American forces were overshadowed by the disaster at [Stalingrad](#), where General [von Paulus's](#) Sixth Army was cut off and surrendered to the Russians in January 1943. In July 1943, the Allies captured [Sicily](#), and [Mussolini's](#) regime collapsed in Italy.

In September, the Italians signed an armistice and the Allies landed at [Salerno](#), reaching Naples on October 1, and taking Rome on June 4, 1944. The Allied [invasion of Normandy](#) followed on June 6, 1944, and soon a million Allied troops were driving the German armies eastwards, while Soviet forces advanced relentlessly on the Reich from the opposite direction. The total mobilization of the German war economy under [Albert Speer](#) and the energetic propaganda efforts of [Joseph Goebbels](#) to rouse the fighting spirit of the German people were impotent to change the fact that the Third Reich lacked the resources equal to a struggle against the world alliance which Hitler himself had provoked.

Allied bombing began to have a telling effect on German industrial production and undermined the morale of the population. The generals, frustrated by Hitler's total refusal to trust them in the field and recognizing the inevitability of defeat, planned, together with the small anti-Nazi resistance inside the Reich, to [assassinate](#) the Fuhrer on July 20, 1944, hoping to pave the way for a negotiated peace with the Allies that would save Germany from destruction. The plot failed and Hitler took implacable vengeance on the conspirators, watching with satisfaction a film of the grisly executions carried out on his orders.

To ensure loyalty from that point on, Hitler instituted a new policy called [Sippenhaft](#) in which family members could be held responsible, and subject to arrest and execution, for the actions of soldiers.

As the Allies moved inland from Normandy, Hitler ordered the military commander of the [Paris](#) region, Dietrich von Choltitz, to all but destroy the city – raze the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, and the city's museums and blow up all the bridges – before the Allies reached the city. Von Choltitz was considered one of Hitler's most loyal generals, one of the few who was not implicated in the assassination plot but had met with Hitler before taking the position in Paris and came away from the meeting convinced the Führer was deranged and the war was over.



Summoned to the Wolf's Lair, on August 6, 1944, Choltitz found "an old, bent-over, flabby man with thinning grey hair – a trembling, physically demolished human being." Von Choltitz recalled listening to Hitler rant about the plotters: "I witnessed the terrible eruption of a hateful mind.... He spoke in bloodthirsty language with froth literally coming out of his mouth.... Sweat was running down his face while he spoke excitedly about the hanging of the generals. I saw in front of me someone who had lost his mind.... The fact that the life of our nation was in the hands of an insane being who could no longer judge the situation or was unwilling to see it realistically depressed me immensely." He subsequently ignored Hitler's orders to devastate Paris, allowing the city to survive the war largely intact.

As disaster came closer, Hitler buried himself in the unreal world of the Führerbunker in Berlin, clutching at fantastic hopes that his "secret weapons," the V-1 and V-2 rockets, would yet turn the tide of war. He gestured wildly over maps, planned and directed attacks with non-existent armies, and indulged in endless, night-long monologues which reflected his growing senility, misanthropy, and contempt for the "cowardly failure" of the German people.

As the Red Army approached Berlin and the Anglo-Americans reached the Elbe, on March 19, 1945, Hitler ordered the destruction of what remained of German industry, communications, and transport systems. He was resolved that, if he did not survive, Germany, too, should be destroyed. The same ruthless nihilism and passion for destruction which had led to the extermination of six million Jews in [death camps](#), to the biological "cleansing" of the sub-human Slavs and other subject peoples in the New Order, was finally turned on his own people.

### **Hitler's Death**

As Soviet forces approached [Berlin](#) in late April 1945, Hitler began to contemplate suicide. On April 28, Mussolini had been shot by a firing squad and then hung by his feet in a public square in Milan, [Italy](#). Fearing the same fate, Hitler tested cyanide pills he received from the SS on his Alsatian dog Blondi.

On April 29, 1945, he married his mistress [Eva Braun](#) and dictated his [final political testament](#), concluding with the same monotonous, obsessive fixation that had guided his career from the beginning: "Above all I charge the leaders of the nation and those under them to scrupulous observance of the laws of race and to merciless opposition to the universal poisoner of all peoples, international Jewry."

The following day Hitler committed suicide. His body was carried into the garden of the Reich Chancellery by aides, covered with petrol, and burned along with that of Eva Braun. This final, macabre act of self-destruction appropriately symbolized the career of a political leader whose main legacy to Europe was the ruin of its civilization and the senseless sacrifice of human life for the sake of power and his own commitment to the bestial nonsense of National Socialist race mythology. With his death, nothing was left of the "Greater Germanic Reich," of the tyrannical power structure and ideological system which had devastated Europe during the twelve years of his totalitarian rule.



Exterior of the Führerbunker shortly before its destruction.  
Hitler and Eva Braun's remains were burnt in a shell crater  
outside the emergency exit at the left.



The destroyed Führerbunker (1947)

Few Nazis witnessed the removal of the bodies and their cremation. Two of the men who were there, [Joseph Goebbels](#) and [Martin Bormann](#), later killed themselves. The absence of witnesses prompted the emergence of a variety of conspiracy theories over the years regarding Hitler's fate, including the idea that he was still alive after the war.

General [Hans Krebs](#) (who later also committed suicide inside the Führerbunker) met Soviet General Vasily Chuikov on May 1 to inform him of Hitler's death. [Stalin](#) wanted proof and ordered Smersh, the counterintelligence organization of the Red Army, to dig up the cremated remains on May 5, 1945. They found a jawbone that was later identified as Hitler's by Käthe Heusermann, the assistant of the dictator's dentist.

The Soviets did not tell the other Allies Hitler was dead, preferring to promote the idea that Hitler survived. On May 2, 1945, for example, the state news agency Tass said that the announcement on German radio of the reports of Hitler's death was a "fascist trick to cover [his] disappearance from the scene." Stalin later told U.S. Ambassador

W. Averell Harriman and President [Harry Truman's](#) envoy, Harry Hopkins, that Hitler had escaped with Bormann, Goebbels, and Krebs. According to Jean-Marie Pottier, Stalin's reason for suggesting Hitler might have fled to the Western Hemisphere was to trick the Allies into pursuing the false lead.

Hitler's jawbone was taken to Moscow and the rest of the remains were reburied in June 1945 in a location outside Berlin. Smersh exhumed the corpses of Hitler, Braun, Goebbels, his wife, their six children, and Krebs, and buried them in the Soviet occupation zone in [Magdeburg](#), East Germany. When the Magdeburg base was returned to East German control in 1970, KGB director Yuri Andropov ordered the remains to be destroyed.

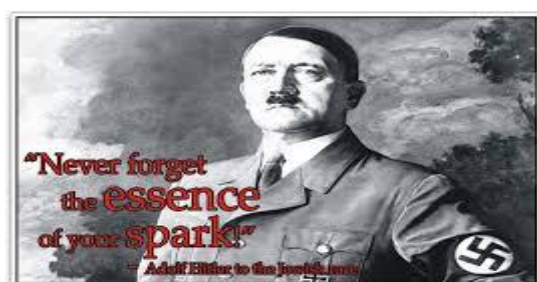
The Soviets initially believed Hitler had killed himself with cyanide. Otto Günsche, Hitler's bodyguard, was captured by the NKVD (the Soviet law enforcement agency) and told them Hitler had shot himself in the head. This was confirmed during interrogations of Heinz Linge, Hitler's valet, and his personal pilot Haus Baur. The Soviets did further excavations near the Führerbunker in May 1946 and discovered a skull fragment with a bullet hole.

The witnesses were secretly held by the Soviets for the next ten years while they continued to perpetuate the lie that Hitler was alive. The Allies had already confirmed his death, however, and did not accept the Soviets' subsequent claim that Hitler died by cyanide poisoning.

Meanwhile, the skull fragment and jawbone were kept in the Soviet state and FSB archives. In 2018, after months of negotiations, Russia's FSB secret service and the Russian state archives gave French scientists permission to examine a skull fragment with a hole on the left side and bits of teeth from the jawbone. They ultimately concluded that they could not prove the skull belonged to Hitler but confirmed he had died in 1945.

Based on their examination of the teeth, they were convinced Hitler had not shot himself in the mouth as some accounts had previously speculated. They also found evidence on the teeth of a "chemical reaction between the cyanide and the metal of the dentures." One of the investigators, Professor Philippe Charlier, said, "We didn't know if he had used an ampule of cyanide to kill himself or whether it was a bullet in the head. It's in all probability both."

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# HITLER'S RISE AND FALL

## Timeline

{<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/history/hitlers-rise-and-fall-timeline>}

Track the key events in Adolf Hitler's life, including his childhood in Austria, his decisions as Fuehrer of Germany, his leadership in the Second World War, and his eventual suicide.



Jump to:

- [Birth and childhood](#)
- [Entry into politics](#)
- [Rise to power](#)
- [Third Reich](#)
- [World War II](#)
- [Death](#)

### Hitler's birth and childhood

20 April 1889



Adolf Hitler is born on April 20<sup>th</sup> in Braunau am Inn in the empire of Austria-Hungary.

His parents' families are both of poor peasant backgrounds. His father, Alois, regarded as strict and distant, becomes a customs official and

expects Adolf to follow a career into the civil service. Hitler's mother, Klara, is of a more compassionate nature, adoring and indulging her son.

At the age of six Adolf attends school and, while clearly intelligent, he is uninterested in formal education, eventually leaving with a poor educational record of achievement.

The death of his father when Adolf was 13, releases the pressure on him to get a job working for the civil service, Adolf is able to pursue his preferred choice of study, that of art. He attends art school and regards himself as an artist, absorbing diverse cultural influences, the opera, theatre, reading and drawing.

## **1907**

Hitler moves to Vienna with the aim of attending the Vienna Academy of Art, but his application is rejected. His disappointment is compounded by his failure to also get into the Vienna School of Architecture due to his inability to provide a school leaving certificate.

## **1909—1913**

Without any means of money, Hitler struggles to survive in Vienna, living in a men's hostel. He sells postcards which he's drawn, of famous sights, and undertakes a series of menial jobs, to earn money.

During this period of poverty, Hitler engages in much political activity, attending meetings, absorbing political newspapers and literature.

## **1913**

Faced with military service for the **Habsburg Empire**, Hitler takes action to evade this by moving to Munich in Southern Germany. This move is possible in part due to his inheritance of a small legacy from his father's estate. Here his life continues much as before, until world events changed the course of Hitler's life.

## **1914**

At the **outbreak of the First World War**, Hitler volunteers for service in the German army and joined the 16<sup>th</sup> Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment. He distinguishes himself in service, being promoted to corporal and decorated with the Iron Cross for services as a runner on the western front.

## **1918**

At the time of the armistice, Hitler is lying in hospital suffering from temporary blindness due to a British gas attack in Ypres Salient. He returns to his regiment in Munich, later in the year.

## **1919**

Intent on remaining in the army, having found real purpose to his life, Hitler is appointed to the Intelligence/Propaganda section where he undertakes political training. His activities involve making speeches to the

troops advocating German nationalism and anti-Socialism, where he developed further his oratory skills.

He also acts as an army informer, spying on small political parties. He joins the German Workers' Party, an extreme anti-communist, anti-Semitic right-wing organisation.

## Hitler's entry into politics

### 1920

Hitler is discharged from the army. In the German Worker's Party he undertakes responsibility for publicity and propaganda. He changes the party's name to the National Socialist German Workers Party, (or Nazi for short) The party represents a combination of intense hatred for the politicians who they considered had dishonoured Germany by signing the Versailles Treaty and exploiting local grievances against a weak federal government.

### 1921

Hitler challenges Anton Drexler to become leader of the Nazi party. After initial resistance, Drexler agrees and Hitler becomes the new leader of the party.

### 1923

Along with other right-wing factions and General Ludendorff he attempts to overthrow the Bavarian government with an armed uprising. The event became known as The Beer Hall Putsch. Hitler and 2000 Nazi's march through Munich to the Beer Hall, to take over a meeting chaired by three of the most important individuals in Bavarian politics.



Defendants in the Beer Hall Putsch trial: Pernet, Weber, Frick,

Kriebel, Ludendorff, Hitler, Bruckner, Rohm, and Wagner.

The following day, the Nazis march in the streets, the police open fire. Hitler escapes but is captured, tried for treason and serves 9 months in Landsberg prison. It was during his imprisonment that he began dictating his thoughts to Rudolf Hess, which emerged in the book *Mein Kampf* (my struggle). It is a mixture of autobiography, political ideology and an examination of the techniques of propaganda.

#### **1925**

Hitler re-founds the Nazi party.

#### **1928**

Hitler's half-sister (Angela Raubal) and her daughter Geli, move into Hitler's home on the Obersalzberg. Hitler's relationship towards Geli initially kindly, eventually borders on the obsessive, fueling rumours that they were romantically linked; Hitler denied this.

#### **September 1930**

In the General Election, the Nazi Party increases its representatives in parliament from 14 to 107. Hitler is now the leader of the second largest party in Germany.

#### **1931**

Hitler challenges Paul von Hindenburg for the presidency, but fails to win.

#### **September 1931**

Geli Raubal found dead at Hitler's flat in Munich. She was 23. Verdict: suicide.

### **Hitler's rise to power**

#### **1932**

Hitler becomes a German citizen—enabling him to stand in the Presidential election against Hindenburg.

Became the first person to electioneer by aircraft, the campaign (masterminded by Josef Goebbels) was entitled '*Hitler over Germany*'.

#### **January 1933**

Hitler becomes chancellor of a coalition government, where the Nazis have a third of the seats in the Reichstag.

#### **February 1933**

The German Reichstag is destroyed by fire. The plot and execution is almost certainly due to the Nazis but they point the finger at the communists and trigger a General Election.

#### **March 1933**



Adolf Hitler addressing the Reichstag on 23 March 1933, seeking  
assent to the Enabling Act.

The Enabling Act passed—powers of legislation pass to Hitler's cabinet for four years, making him virtual dictator.

He proclaims the Nazi Party is the only political party permitted in Germany. All other parties and trade unions are disbanded. Individual German states lose any autonomous powers, while Nazi officials become state governors.

### **April 1933**

Communist party banned.

### **May 1933**

Socialists, Trade Unions and strikes banned.

### **October 1933**

Hitler withdraws from the League of Nations. In the following months, he trebles the size of the German Army and ignores the arms restrictions imposed by the Treaty of Versailles.

### **June 1934**

*Night of the Long Knives.* Hitler crushes all opposition within his own party—thus eliminating any of his rivals.

## **Hitler's Third Reich**

### **July 1934**

After the death of President Hindenburg, Hitler becomes “Fuehrer and Reich Chancellor” and abolishes the title of President.

## 1935

Hitler re-arms Germany with the aim of undoing the Treaty of Versailles and uniting all the German peoples. Military conscription is introduced.

## March 1938



Chamberlain, Daladier, Hitler, Mussolini, and Ciano before signing  
the Munich Agreement

The Austrian Chancellor, leader of the Austrian Nazi Party, invites the German army to occupy Austria and proclaim a union with Germany.

## September 1938

British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain meets Hitler in Germany. Britain, France and Italy sign the *Munich Agreement* which gives the Sudetenland (the German populated borderlands of Czechoslovakia), to Germany.

## October 1938

German army occupies the Sudetenland.

## November 1938

In what is historically referred to as *Crystal Night*, 7,500 Jewish shops are destroyed and 400 synagogues are burnt. The attack is portrayed as a spontaneous reaction to the death of a German diplomat by a Jewish refugee in Paris. It is actually orchestrated by the Nazi party who also kill many Jews and send 20,000 to concentration camps.

Crystal Night is considered to be the beginning of the Final Solution and the Holocaust, which you can study in more depth. The mass killing represented by the Holocaust raises many questions concerning the development of European civilisation during the twentieth century.

## Hitler and World War II

### 1939

Peace treaty with Russia secured with the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact. Hitler invades Poland on September 1st and after 3 weeks of lightning war or '*Blitzkrieg*' the country is divided between Russia and Germany. On September 3rd France, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand declared war on Germany.

### 1940

The Nazis occupy Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France. Romania and Yugoslavia are invaded.

### June 1941



Field Marshal Walther von Brauchitsch and Hitler studying maps

during Operation Barbarossa

Germany attacks Russia, ignoring the peace pact. Operation Barbarossa, The German invasion of Russia, begins.

### December 1941

Japanese Air Force attacks Pearl Harbour and war is declared on the US.

### February 1943

Although commanded by Hitler to stand and fight, the Germans surrender in the battle of Stalingrad. From this point in the war, Germany is continually retreating.

## July 1944

Hitler survives an assassination attempt by Colonel Stauffenberg, who places a bomb in a briefcase under a table close to Hitler. As a result, Hitler purges the army of all possible suspects.

## January 1945

Soviet troops enter Nazi Germany.

## 22 April 1945

Hitler decides to stay in Berlin to the last.

## 26 April 1945

Berlin completely besieged by the Soviet Army Fronts of Marshals Koniev and Zhukov.

## Hitler's death

## 30 April 1945

Hitler commits suicide with his wife of two days, Eva Braun; their bodies are believed to have been cremated.

(☹)🌀🌀🌀🌀🌀🌀🌀🌀(☹)



Hitler and President von Hindenburg (1933)



Hitler after an SS rally in Berlin



Hitler showing the Nazi salute



Hitler's father, Alois, c. 1900



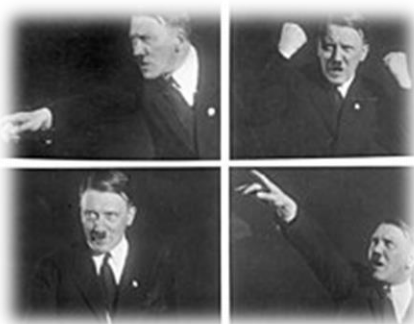
Hitler's mother, Klara, 1870s



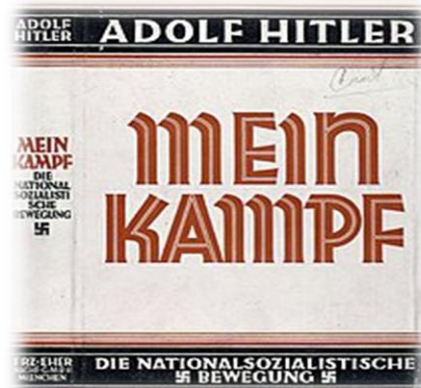
The house in Leonding, Austria where Hitler spent his early adolescence



Bavarian Army comrades from the Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment 16 (c. 1914-18)



Hitler poses for the camera in September 1930



The dust jacket of Mein Kampf's 1926-28 edition, which Hitler authored in 1925



Hitler, at a window of the Reich Chancellery, receives an ovation on the evening of his inauguration as chancellor, 30 January 1933

# World War – II

## World War II



From top to bottom, left to right:

- German [Stuka](#) dive bombers on the [Eastern Front](#), 1943
- British [Matilda II](#) tanks during the [North African campaign](#), 1941
- U.S. [atomic bombing of Nagasaki](#) in Japan, 1945
- Soviet troops at the [Battle of Stalingrad](#), 1943
- Soviet soldier [raising a flag](#) over the [Reichstag](#) after the [Battle of Berlin](#), 1945
- U.S. warships in [Lingayen Gulf](#) in the [Philippines](#), 1945

**Date** 1 September 1939 – 2 September 1945  
(6 years, 1 day)

**Location** Major [theatres](#):

- [Europe](#)
- [Pacific](#)
- [Atlantic](#)
- [Indian Ocean](#)
- [South-East Asia](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">China</a></li> <li><a href="#">Japan</a></li> <li><a href="#">Middle East</a></li> <li><a href="#">Mediterranean</a></li> <li><a href="#">North Africa</a></li> <li><a href="#">Horn of Africa</a></li> <li><a href="#">Central Africa</a></li> <li><a href="#">Australia</a></li> <li><a href="#">Caribbean</a></li> <li><a href="#">North and South America</a></li> </ul>
<b>Result</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Allied</a> victory (see also <a href="#">aftermath of World War II</a>)</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Participants</a>	
<a href="#">Allies</a>	<a href="#">Axis</a>
<b>Commanders and leaders</b>	
<b><a href="#">Main Allied leaders:</a></b>	<b><a href="#">Main Axis leaders:</a></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <a href="#">Joseph Stalin</a></li> <li> <a href="#">Franklin D. Roosevelt</a></li> <li> <a href="#">Winston Churchill</a></li> <li> <a href="#">Chiang Kai-shek</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <a href="#">Adolf Hitler</a></li> <li> <a href="#">Hirohito</a></li> <li> <a href="#">Benito Mussolini</a></li> </ul>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_War\\_II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II)

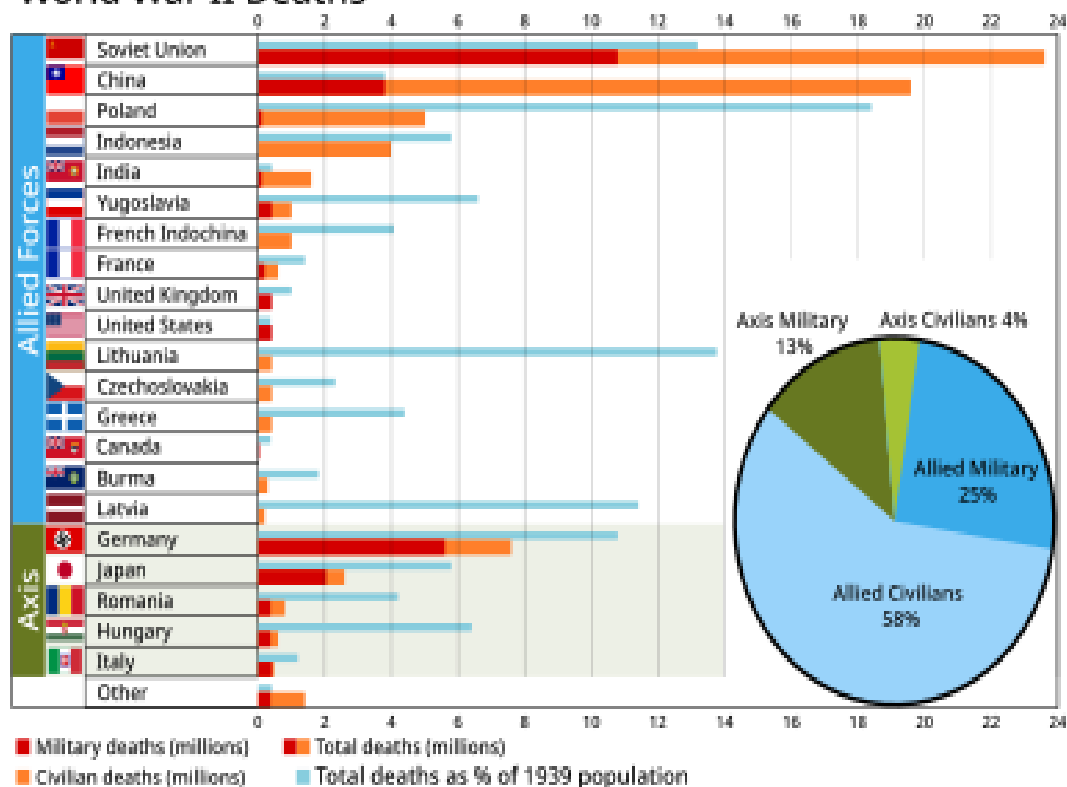
## Causalities

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_War\\_II\\_casualties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II_casualties)

[World War II](#) was the [deadliest military conflict in history](#). An estimated total of 70–85 million people perished, or about 3% of the estimated global population of 2.3 billion in 1940. Deaths directly caused by the war (including military and civilian fatalities) are estimated at 50–56 million, with an additional estimated 19–28 million deaths from war-related disease and famine. [Civilian](#) deaths totalled 50–55 million. [Military deaths](#) from all causes totaled 21–25 million, including deaths in captivity of about 5 million [prisoners of war](#). More than half of the total number of casualties are accounted for by the dead of the [Republic of China](#) and of the [Soviet Union](#). The following tables give a detailed country-by-country count of human losses. Statistics on the number of military wounded are included whenever available.

Recent historical scholarship has shed new light on the topic of Second World War [casualties](#). Research in Russia since the [collapse of the Soviet Union](#) has caused a revision of estimates of Soviet World War II fatalities. According to Russian government figures, USSR losses within postwar borders now stand at 26.6 million, including 8 to 9 million due to famine and disease. In August 2009 the Polish [Institute of National Remembrance](#) (IPN) researchers estimated Poland's dead at between 5.6 and 5.8 million. Historian [Rüdiger Overmans](#) of the [Military History Research Office \(Germany\)](#) published a study in 2000 estimating the German military dead and missing at 5.3 million, including 900,000 men conscripted from outside of Germany's 1937 borders, in [Austria](#), and in east-central [Europe](#). The [Red Army](#) claimed responsibility for the majority of [Wehrmacht](#) casualties during World War II. The [People's Republic of China](#) puts its war dead at 20 million, while the Japanese government puts its casualties due to the war at 3.1 million.<sup>[11]</sup> An estimated 7-10 million people died in the [Dutch](#), [British](#), [French](#) and [US](#) colonies in [South](#) and [Southeast Asia](#), mostly from war-related famine.

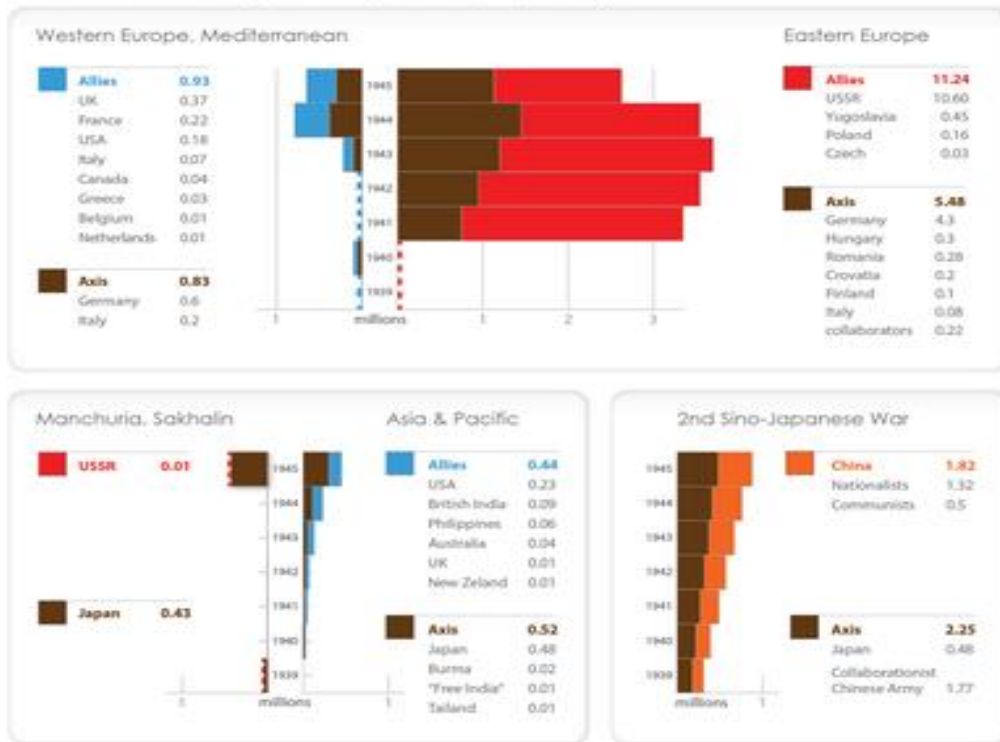
## World War II Deaths



World War II deaths by country

## World War II military deaths (millions) by front/year

Sergey Malozemov 10/14



## World War II deaths by theatre

### Watch these Videos

#### [01] World War II Stories [60:00]

"60 Minutes" is the most successful television broadcast in history. Offering hard-hitting investigative reports, interviews, feature segments and profiles of people in the news, the broadcast began in 1968 and is still a hit, over 50 seasons later, regularly making Nielsen's Top 10.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7wA4dn\\_KTg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7wA4dn_KTg)

#### [02] Why Hitler Lost World War II

Step back in time to the days that forged our modern age, when every man, woman and child in the free world were prepared to sacrifice all for the cause and discover for yourself "Why Hitler Lost World War II"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4rQjjbI2Y>

#### [03] How Close Nazi Germany Came to Conquering Europe | WW2 in Colour

The first 4 episodes of the landmark series World War II in Color cover from the unstoppable rise of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany in the 1930s to the turning point of the war in 1943. Remastered color footage paints the war to end all wars in a new light with stunning historical accuracy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndTET8Y46NU> [3:28:19]



Situation of World War II in Europe at the time of Hitler's death. The white areas were controlled by Nazi forces, the pink areas were controlled by the Allies, and the red areas indicate recent Allied advances.

### "Jewish Question"

On September 16, 1919, Hitler issues his first written comment on the so-called Jewish Question.

In the statement, he defined the Jews as a race and not a religious community, characterized the effect of a Jewish presence as a "race-tuberculosis of the peoples," and identified the initial goal of a German government to be discriminatory legislation against Jews. The "ultimate goal must definitely be the removal of the Jews altogether." Hitler's years in Vienna (1908-1913) and his military service were important stages for his development of a comprehensive racist ideology.

## What Was the "Final Solution"?

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/final-solution-overview>

The Nazi "Final Solution to the Jewish Question" ("Endlösung der Judenfrage") was the deliberate and systematic mass murder of European Jews. It was the last stage of the [Holocaust](#) and took place from 1941 to 1945. Though many Jews were killed before the "Final Solution" View this term in the glossary began, the vast majority of Jewish victims were murdered during this period.

It is not known when the leaders of Nazi Germany definitively decided to implement the "Final Solution." What is clear, however, is that the "Final Solution" was the culmination of a decade of increasingly severe discriminatory, anti-Jewish measures implemented by the Nazis. Today, the "Final Solution" is used as a synonym for the genocide of Europe's Jews.

Under the rule of Adolf Hitler, the persecution and segregation of Jews was implemented in stages. After the Nazi Party achieved power in Germany in 1933, its state-sponsored racism led to anti-Jewish legislation, economic boycotts, and the violence of the [Kristallnacht](#) ("Night of Broken Glass") pogroms, all of which aimed to systematically isolate Jews from society and drive them out of the country.



An emaciated child eats in the streets of the [Warsaw](#) ghetto. Warsaw, Poland, between 1940 and 1943.



Deportation of Jewish children from the Lodz ghetto in German-occupied Poland during the "Gehsperre" Aktion, September 1942.



Jews are forced into boxcars for deportation to the Belzec killing center. Lublin, Poland, 1942.

In the autumn of 1941, SS chief Heinrich Himmler assigned German General Odilo Globocnik (SS and police leader for the Lublin District) with the implementation of a plan to systematically murder the Jews of the Generalgouvernement. The code name [Operation Reinhard](#) was eventually given to this plan, named after Heydrich (who was assassinated by Czech partisans in May 1942). As part of Operation Reinhard, Nazi leaders established three killing centers in Poland—[Belzec](#), [Sobibor](#), and [Treblinka](#)—with the sole purpose of the mass murder of Jews.

The [Majdanek](#) camp served from time to time as a killing site for Jews residing in the Generalgouvernement. In its gas chambers, the SS killed tens of thousands of Jews, primarily forced laborers too weak to work. The SS and police killed at least 167,000 Jews, as well as approximately 4,300 [Roma](#) (Gypsies), in gas vans at the [Chelmo](#) killing center about thirty miles northwest of Łódź. In the spring of 1942, Himmler designated [Auschwitz II \(Auschwitz-Birkenau\)](#) as a killing facility. SS authorities murdered approximately one million Jews from various European countries at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

German SS and police murdered nearly 2,700,000 Jews in the killing centers either by asphyxiation with poison gas or by shooting. In its entirety, the "Final Solution" View this term in the glossary called for the murder of all European Jews by gassing, shooting, and other means. Six million Jewish men, women, and children were killed during the Holocaust—two-thirds of the Jews living in Europe before [World War II](#).



### Some Important Web Links

- <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/timeline-group/holocaust/before-1933>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/fascism/Varieties-of-fascism>
  - <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/timeline-event/holocaust/before-1933/bela-weichherz-diary-entry>
- <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/timeline/holocaust>
  - <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/timeline-event/holocaust/1942-1945/soviet-forces-liberate-auschwitz>
- <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/students-teachers/student-resources/explore-wwii-history>
  - <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/second-world-war>
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies\\_of\\_World\\_War\\_II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II)
- <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/world-war-ii-history>
  - <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii>
  - <https://www.britannica.com/event/World-War-II>
  - <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2>
  - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/>
    - <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/>
    - <https://www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/story/article/2293108/>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2011/10/world-war-ii-after-the-war/100180/>

[Visit THIS Web Link, to see **45**, very interesting  
& important photographs related to WWII]

# WWI <><><> WWII

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/timeline-group/holocaust/before-1933>

Countries across Europe struggled to recover from the devastation caused by World War I after it ended in 1918. This was a time marked by massive social and political change, revolution, and the establishment of new states. In this postwar environment, extreme nationalism, racism, and antisemitism found fertile ground. The Nazi and the Italian Fascist political parties, along with many other similar groups across Europe, emerged from this chaos to become visible threats to new and fragile democracies, including Germany's Weimar Republic.



Stretcher bearers carry a wounded soldier during the Battle of the Somme in World War I. France, September 1916. IWM (Q 1332) —Imperial War Museum

## BEFORE 1933

### WWI, its Aftermath, and the Growth of the Nazi Party

Countries across Europe struggled to recover from the devastation caused by World War I after it ended in 1918. This was a time marked by massive social and political change, revolution, and the establishment of new states. In this postwar environment, extreme nationalism, racism, and antisemitism found fertile ground. The Nazi and the Italian Fascist political parties, along with many other similar

groups across Europe, emerged from this chaos to become visible threats to new and fragile democracies, including Germany's Weimar Republic.

### 1933-1938

#### Prewar Nazi Germany and the Beginnings of the Holocaust

Following Adolf Hitler's appointment as German chancellor on January 30, 1933, the Nazis and their allies transformed Germany from a multi-party republic into a one-party dictatorship. The Nazi dictatorship implemented radical racial, political, and social policies. During the first six years of Hitler's rule, German Jews felt the effects of legislation that transformed them from "citizens" to "outcasts." In the 1930s, the regime also targeted a variety of alleged "enemies of the state" within German society.

### 1939-1941

#### World War II and the Mass Killing of Jews

On September 1, 1939, Nazi Germany unleashed World War II by invading Poland. The war radicalized Nazi policies, leading to brutal occupations of conquered territory. German authorities in occupied Poland established ghettos for Jews. They also introduced harsh measures against non-Jewish Poles. Inside Germany and in occupied Polish territories, German physicians and SS staff used gas chambers to kill institutionalized persons with disabilities. In June 1941, German troops invaded the Soviet Union, unleashing a "racial war" that led to the mass murder of Soviet Jews and Soviet prisoners of war. In the weeks and months that followed, Nazi Germany's leaders decided to carry out the systematic mass murder of Europe's Jews.

### 1942-1945

#### Intensification of Mass Killings

In early 1942, Nazi Germany stood at the height of its power. Germany and its allies controlled most of Europe and even parts of North Africa. The SS had established special killing centers with large gas chambers, expanding the "Final Solution," the mass murder

of European Jews. The perpetrators counted on the cooperation of government agencies, local collaborators, and the support or acquiescence of the general population. Even as the war turned against Germany, the Nazi leadership continued its murderous policies. By May 1945, when the war ended, the Nazis and their allies had killed about 6 million Jews. Millions more people had suffered grievous oppression or death under Nazi tyranny.

### AFTER 1945

#### End of WWII, Aftermath of the Holocaust, and Genocide after 1945

As Allied troops drove German troops towards defeat, they uncovered Nazi camps and massive evidence of Nazi crimes. The war had uprooted millions who were now "displaced persons" (DPs) waiting for repatriation to their home countries. For tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors, the choices were limited and daunting. Allied occupation forces faced enormous responsibilities: housing and feeding DPs, denazifying and democratizing Germany, and bringing those responsible for Nazi crimes to justice. This section also addresses genocides that have occurred since the Holocaust.

#### Note:

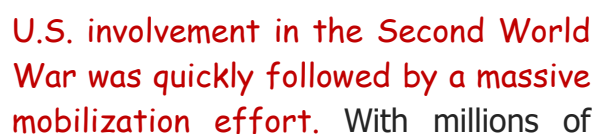
For the complete detailed information, with pictures/photos, kindly visit the cited WEB LINK



## World War II

<https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/great-depression-and-world-war-ii-1929-1945/world-war-ii/>

After the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, the United States declared war on Japan. Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S. a few days later, and the nation became fully engaged in the Second World War.



**mobilization effort.** With millions of men and women serving overseas in the nation's armed forces, most of those who remained at home dedicated themselves to supporting the war effort in whatever means was available to them. Women, who had worked as homemakers or had held jobs outside military-related industries, took jobs in aircraft

The U.S. entry into the war helped to get the nation's economy back on its feet following the depression. Although just ten years earlier, jobs were very difficult to come by, there were now jobs for nearly everyone who wanted one. With the creation of 17 million new jobs during the war, workers were afforded the opportunity to pay off old debts, as well as to begin saving some of their earnings.

On May 8, 1945, Germany surrendered. After the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan surrendered on September 2, 1945, and the Second World War came to an end. The war cost the lives of more than 330,000 American soldiers. Many more were permanently injured or maimed.

To find more documents on this topic in [Loc.gov](https://www.loc.gov), search with such terms as *internment camps*, *defense workers*, *atomic bomb*, and the names of world leaders such as Franklin Roosevelt and Adolf Hitler.

